

REMARKS

Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1, 2, 4-18, and 20-25 will be at issue.

The examiner rejected claim 1 as being anticipated by the Bolleman *et al.* '075 patent.

The examiner noted that fig. 2 of the Bolleman patent discloses an arrangement having two layers 21 and 22, each of which has a conductive sheet 2 and an elastomeric microstructure on that sheet. The applicant contends that the individual layers of this transducer element are not a "transducer element" within the intended meaning of the claims of this application.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the two transducer elements must be "separately controllable." The applicant believes that this feature is not disclosed or suggested by the Bolleman patent. Although the examiner has noted that figure 2 shows separate wires connected to each layer, each of those wires comes from the same voltage supply 20, and no other structure appears to be suggested to enable variances in the currents supplied to the different layers. With each layer being powered by the same source, it appears that the layers are not separately controllable. Thus, Bolleman does not appear to disclose two separately-controllable transducer elements, and the claim, as amended, is believed to be allowable over that reference.

Similarly, claims 2 and 4-16, which depend from claim 1, are also believed to be allowable over the Bolleman patent.

The examiner also rejected claim 1 as being anticipated by the Croft *et al.* '402 patent and by the Tamura *et al.* '199 patent. The applicant believes that it would have been self-evident to one of ordinary skill in the art that those patents only disclose a single transducer element. Further, those two patents were not cited against original claim 3, which specified separately-controllable transducer elements. Because separately-controllable transducer elements are now

recited in claim 1, it is believed that the amendment of claim 1 also makes it allowable over these patents.

Similarly, claims 2 and 4-16, which depend from claim 1, are also believe to be allowable over all three of these references.

Independent claim 17 was also rejected as anticipated by the Bolleman '075 patent. That claim has also been amended to recited separately-controllable transducer elements. As suggested by the discussion above, this amendment is believed to make claim 17 allowable over the Bolleman patent. There was no other rejection of that claim.

Claims 18 and 20-25, which depend from claim 17, are believed to be allowable for the same reason.

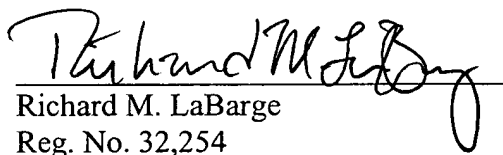
Different aspects of the invention can provide various new benefits. A structure can be made, for example, in which acceleration of the center of mass of the transducer generates energy when the transducer is moved. The center of mass can also be moved. Different direction sound patterns can be achieved. Back cavities or back plates may be unnecessary. None of the transducers disclosed in the cited references can provide such versatile functions.

These changes are believed to put the application in form for allowance, and thus the applicant requests a notice of allowance of claims 1, 2, 14-18, and 20-25.

Respectfully submitted,

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